

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
December 5, 2006

The Edgefield County Council held its regular meeting on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, in the County Council Chambers, 225 Jeter Street, Edgefield.

Members present

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman
Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman
Norman Dorn, Councilman
Joel D. Hudson, Councilman
B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

Others present

John Pettigrew, Jr., Administrator
John F. Byrd, Jr., County Attorney
Lynn W. Strom, Finance/Budget Manager
Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council

The chairman called the meeting to order and Councilman Hudson gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mr. Joel Jolly, Chairman of the Heritage Jubilee Festival, presented to council a plaque for their financial support of the annual festival held in October. The proceeds of this festival go to charities throughout the county.

Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Kitchens, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the Minutes of the November 7, 2006, Regular Meeting of County Council. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time Chairman Kneece introduced Mr. John Pettigrew, the new County Administrator.

Reports

There were no comments concerning the reports.

Resolutions

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to approve Resolution No. 06-07-295, "A Resolution to Establish Workers' Compensation Benefits to Cover Volunteer/Reserve Deputies." Motion carried unanimously.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
December 5, 2006

New Business

External Audit

Laurie Smith, CPA with Elliott Davis, LLP, presented to council Edgefield County's annual external audit for fiscal year 2005-06, giving a brief overview of the audit. She stated that as the county's external independent audit firm, she gave an unqualified opinion on the financial statements, which is a clean opinion on the financial statements as of June 30, 2006.

Ms. Smith gave a few highlights from the audit report. She referred to the Statement of Net Assets, which combines all funds and governmental entities. Total assets for the year totaled \$23.5 million, an increase of 6.6%, including capital assets of \$15,000,000. Total liabilities increased by 29% from the prior year due mostly to additional debt: equipment lease and GO bond. Net Assets (assets – liabilities) increased 3.2%. She then directed Council to look at the unrestricted portion of net assets, which increased less than 1%. Therefore, unrestricted net assets were flat in growth for FY 05-06.

She then moved to the General Fund. Undesignated fund balance for the General Fund decreased a little from the prior year. At its current level of \$2,382,000, the County has approximately 3.8 months of operating. The County should try to stay between 3 and 5 months worth of operating expenses.

Ms. Smith then directed the Council to the Landfill operations. The operating revenues were \$1.6 million, an increase of 9% over the prior year. User charge revenues drove that increase. The Landfill was able to bring in about \$166,000 more in grant funds than in the prior year.

All of our funds were invested according to state law. All of our funds were in safe investments in compliance with law.

The schedule of long term debt shows the GO bond that we added for the year. We ended up with about \$2.3 million in debt on GO bonds, \$358,000 of which is due within the next year.

We then move to the schedule of budget vs. actual for revenues and expenditures. We collected 6.3% more than our budgeted revenues. This is primarily driven by unexpected grant funds through Emergency Preparedness. The actual expenditures were 1% less than our total budget. We spent more than we collected by right at \$50,000. So, we drew down our fund balance by \$50,000.

There is a new requirement to accrue post employment benefits (what we offer to retired employees in health insurance coverage). She encouraged us to get an actuarial report

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
December 5, 2006

to figure what benefits we are currently offering and what this requirement will mean to us. We have until the year ended June 30, 2008 to comply with this standard.

Mr. Kneece asked about the new law's effect on the fiscal autonomy of the school board. Ms. Smith stated that the school operations levy will no longer be on the tax bill of owner-occupied homes.

2006 Area Plan Resource Survey

Ms. Elyse Benson, new Coordinator for Ninety Six District Resource Conservation & Development Council. Ms. Benson represents a six county area. Each county is represented on a board by three members. Edgefield County is represented by Bill Smith, Bill Moody, and Thomas McCain. This is a non-profit organization. She advised council of several areas she could be of help to the counties, which includes writing grants and managing grants. She has a grant station – a membership group that provides grant information from all types of sources: corporate, private, foundation grants, state and local government and federal grants as well. If the county has a project that it is looking for money, such as a park, Ms. Benson can get the necessary information that would apply for that particular project.

Ms. Benson asked council for input to a survey that her council is required by law to update a five year plan. There are four categories that input is needed: control erosion and sedimentation; conservation, use and quality of water; economic and social concerns and energy conservation, alternative energy sources. It was the consensus of council to receive as information.

Request for use of a room at the Neighborhood Center

Council received a request from Narcotics Anonymous to use a room (same room being used by Alcoholic Anonymous) at the Neighborhood Center every Saturday at noon, for approximately one hour. Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the request. Motion carried unanimously.

Ambulance bids

The following bids were received for the purpose of purchasing a new ambulance:

(1)	Taylor Made	\$89,739
(2)	Marque Southeastern Lafrance	\$96,228
(3)	Northwestern Emergency Vehicles	\$97,574
(4)	Horton Emergency Vehicles	\$106,952

Jewel Plaxco, EMS Director, addressed council concerning the bids. She stated that she had contacted some Services that are completely against Taylor Made because of all of the problems they have had with that company, such as doors falling off.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
December 5, 2006

One county took one of two trucks they owned back to the company in Arkansas and they could not fix it. Both of the trucks are now parked, cannot use either of them. Warranty on the Taylor Made is only 24,000, which does not meet the specs.

Jewel recommended the \$97,574 truck from Northwestern Emergency Vehicles. This is the only unit that has a seven year or 70,000 mile warranty on everything, except for the paint which is 36,000 miles, or three years. That is in line with the specifications.

Marque Southeastern Lafrance (\$96,228) only a three year warranty or 36,000 miles; Horton, a fifteen year warranty on the body – 36,000 miles for the conversion.

Motion was made by Councilman Hudson, seconded by Councilman Bright, to approve the bid submitted by Northwestern Emergency Vehicles of \$97,574. The motion carried unanimously.

Reappointments/Planning Commission

The two year terms of the Edgefield County Planning Commission members James F. Burt, Roger Hill Timpson, Nadine Horne, Tracy Freeman, and Rodney Ingle expired in November 2006. Each has agreed to serve another two year term. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Dorn. Motion carried unanimously.

Tax Board of Appeals

The initial one year terms of Jimmie Haywood, Odell Glover, Ralph McFarland, and David Patton (Tax Board of Appeals), will expire January 3, 2007. Henry Black, Denny Clark, and J. R. Hooper terms of two years will expire January 3, 2008. Each member is appointed by a County Councilman from their respective district. Councilmen Bright and Hudson stated that Messrs. Haywood, Glover and McFarland were willing to serve a two year term on the Board, and David Patton submitted his letter of resignation effective immediately. Councilman Kitchens will submit a name at the January 2007 regular council meeting to replace Mr. Patton. Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Hudson, to re-appoint Messrs. Haywood, Glover, and McFarland to serve a two year term on the Tax Board of Appeals. Motion carried unanimously.

Christmas Bonus

Councilman Dorn made a motion to approve Christmas bonuses of \$75.00 for full time county employees and \$50.00 for part time employees. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hudson and the motion passed unanimously.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
December 5, 2006

2007 County Holiday Schedule

Councilman Kitchens made the motion to accept the holiday schedule presented if it corresponds with the state. The motion passed unanimously with a second to the motion made by Councilman Dorn.

Intergovernmental Meeting

Motion was made by Councilman Bright, seconded by Councilman Kitchens, to host the 2007 annual intergovernmental meeting on Monday, January 29, 2007, (6:00 pm) at the Sertoma Club in Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

The administrator gave an update on the proposal for a part time assistant to the Emergency Preparedness Director, Mike Casey. This position was discussed at the November council meeting that he could obtain some funds to pay half the cost of this person to assist him in administering the emergency preparedness program and to assist him in obtaining other grants for his department. There are funds available in this area which includes Homeland Security.

Mr. Casey is proposing that he advertise the position, but there is a possibility of getting a volunteer for this position which he is in agreement with. If there is no volunteer then the county would pay \$8.00 to \$10.00 per hour, work ten hours per week with five hours being paid with CERT funds and five hours paid from county funds. This would be about a \$1200 impact this fiscal year. The individual would be housed in the EMS building. This would be a temporary/part time position with no benefits. Motion was made by Councilman Hudson to accept the proposal for a part time assistant as recommended by the Emergency Preparedness Director. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kitchens and the motion carried unanimously.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Pettigrew briefed the council and the public on a few items that are being worked on. He stated that he had met with a project manager from the Department of Commerce and Robert Long with Aiken/Edgefield Economic Development Partnership to discuss Edgefield County's marketing and efforts to attract jobs, industry, and investments. They were impressed with what they see in Edgefield County. The Department of Commerce's recommendation was to have more facilities to show to potential prospects. We currently only have one available building with limited appeal. They both recommended that Edgefield County look into building a Spec Building out at the Industrial Park. Mr. Pettigrew will be looking into whether or not we can get some grants to help us with this project.

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
December 5, 2006

Mr. Pettigrew stated that he has been working with Mr. Dorn to get a lease agreement on the eight acres at Northside Park and a meeting is tentatively scheduled for next Tuesday.

Also, Elliott Davis suggested in the management letter that we take a look at our long term obligation debt to see if we can refinance some of it at a lower rate. There were a few bonds that we are paying over 5% interest and Mr. Pettigrew stated that he thinks that we can get a little under 4 % right now. He will be talking to the attorneys to see if we can combine those four bonds into one and save the County some money through a lower interest rate.

Association of Counties Winter Meeting for Administrators is Thursday, December 7, 2006 and Mr. Pettigrew will be attending.

Comments from the Public

At this time, Mr. Kneece invited comments from the public. Mr. Bob Ramsey asked a few questions that he had throughout the meeting. Mr. Kneece clarified a few items in the agenda for him. Mr. Ramsey requested a copy of the audit report and Mr. Kneece instructed staff to give Mr. Ramsey a copy. Mr. Ramsey also mentioned other items as well: the new ambulance-were the same specs sent to each company; Christmas Bonuses for employees; school tax being removed from general opts budget; hospital overall budget-county contribution; reserves reported from audit and the revenues.

Claims approved as follows:

PAYROLL:	10/23/06 thru 11/5/06
Regular.....	\$201,918.32
PAYROLL:	11/6/06 thru 11/19/06
Regular.....	\$208,492.79
PAYROLL:	11/20/06 thru 12/3/06
Regular.....	\$217,287.10
Christmas Bonuses.....	\$11,375.00
General Operating.....	\$463,414.84

EDGEFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
Minutes
December 5, 2006

Executive session

Councilman Dorn made a motion to convene in executive session pursuant to Code Section 30-4-70 (a) (1) of the SC Code of Laws 1976, as amended, concerning a personnel matter, and returning to regular session at the discretion of the Chairman. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bright, and carried unanimously.

Returning to regular session the Chairman stated that no action would be taken from executive session.

There being no further business, Councilman Dorn made the motion to adjourn. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, 2007.

C. Monroe Kneece, Chairman

Willie C. Bright, Vice Chairman

Norman Dorn, Councilman

Joel D. Hudson, Councilman

B. Everette Kitchens, Councilman

ATTEST

Barbara R. Stark, Clerk to Council